# Use caution when taking on the king of Utah peaks

**By Lynn Arave** Deseret News staff writer

HIGH UINTAS — You're not king of the hill in Utah until you've climbed the state's tallest mountain — Kings Peak (13,528 feet above sea level) - where you stand 9,268 feet (almost 1.8 miles) higher than Salt Lake's Temple Square in Utah's thinnest air (about 40 percent less oxygen than at sea level).

To set the record straight, this peak was not named on the basis of its premier height. Its namesake was Clarence King, director of the first U.S. Geological Survey team that came through Utah in 1867-71.

Ironically, King himself was never aware of Utah's tallest point since it went undiscovered until 24 years ago. Initial measurements erroneously pegged South Kings peak (about one-half mile south of today's Kings Peak) as Utah's tallest, at only 13,498 feet.

Revised measurements in 1966 using improved technology not only found North Kings Peak (previously unnamed) to be Utah's tallest, but also revised the height of the original Kings Peak to be 14 feet taller — 13,512, solidifying its claim as Utah's second-highest.

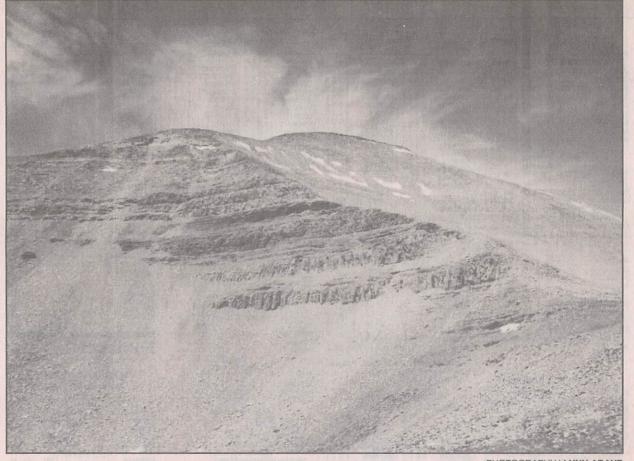
Kings Peak is not easy to identify in 1990 either. It has no dominant features and looks drab in comparison to other nearby peaks. Also, since there are 24 other peaks over 13,000 feet in the Uintas (only nine of which are named), Kings Peak blends in.

On top of Kings Peak, a metal plaque describes its namesake. There is also a small pile of rocks, and the peak itself is nothing more than stacked rock slabs. From the top, the view is breathtaking, and even the Wasatch Mountains are visible to the west. (Salt Lake City is almost straight west of Kings Peak, about 88 miles away.)

Late July/August is the most ideal period to hike Utah's tallest peak since the snow usually is gone by then. On a typical August day, as many as 40 climbers may conquer Kings Peak. September also can be a pleasant time, but the nights are much cooler.

Three days is the minimum time possible for a roundtrip visit to Kings Peak, and that's rushing it. Four to five days would be more comfortable.

How tough is the Kings Peak hike? It ranks as one of



Kings Peak, with its no-frills appearance, is pictured here from just below Anderson Pass.

Wyoming 410. Travel 14 miles south to Mountain View. It's 10 more paved miles until the last 22 miles of gravel road (OK for car travel) to Henry's Fork (9,600-foot elevation). Total mileage from Salt Lake City to the trailhead is about 165 miles, or 31/2 hours.

Water is available at a spring to the east of Dollar Lake. Schuler said. He reported all the area's trails in good condition and said that camping spots are available throughout Henry's Fork. Other popular lakes in the area include Bear Lake and Henry's Fork Lake. Mosquitoes are plentiful in the

(Note: Since one key hiking sign in the middle of Painter Basin has confusing directions, be sure not to miss the right turn or you may end up traveling three miles out of the way to Trail Rider Pass.)

The other, more daring option to reach Kings Peak is a shortcut up a rock-slide slope, located about one-half mile to the right (west) of Gunsight Pass. (Kings Peak is the mountain that peeks through the top of this opening and looks like a sinking ship.)

This makeshift, three-mile route is very popular because its saves about two hours - one-way travel time - to Anderson Pass. But it's also very dangerous with a steep 1,300-foot climb up loose material.

From Anderson Pass, there's no sign pointing to Kings, but it is the nearest peak (southeast direction). The final half-mile (828-foot altitude gain) is a mountain climb, not a hike (since it requires the use of your hands, too). This section travels upward, across a string of 100 percent rock slabs (some of which are loose) along an unmarkable path.

Climbers should be cautious of their footing because one slip could mean a gash in the leg or arm. Also be aware of incoming storms since lightning danger is severe on the top of Kings Peak (wet rocks would also be slippery). Winds are usually fierce from Anderson Pass upward.

Several narrow points along the way provide breathtaking views with dizzying backdrops to the basins below. It takes as much time to climb back down to Anderson Pass as it does to go up to Kings Peak because of the rugged, uneven terrain.

Horses are very popular in the Henry's Fork area and could make it to Anderson Pass via Painter Basin, but could not travel up the rock slide shortcut nor the final assault up Kings Peak. Taking dogs to Kings Peak is not wise because of the many sharp rocks and cliffs. Motorized vehicles or mountain bicycles are prohibited in the High Uintas Primitive

Mild altitude sickness is a possible problem for some hikers, even physically fit individuals, when hiking/camping at 10,000-foot plus altitudes. Headache, nausea, breathing difficulties and sleep disruption are the most common symptoms of this illness. People coming up from very low elevations are especially vulnerable. Don't hike Kings Peak if you feel you have altitude sickness.

# Scoreboard

MAIOD LEAGUE STANDINGS

4 D DESERET NEWS, THURS. P.M./FRI. A.M., AUGUST 16-17, 1990

### Baseball

Pittsburgh

New York

Montreal

Chicago

St. Louis

Philadelphia

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		AM	ERICA	N LE				
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Boston	63	53	.543	-	5-5	Lost 1	36-18	27-35
Toronto	62	56	.525	2	5-5	Lost 1	32-29	30-27
Baltimore	56	60	.483	7	3-7	Lost 2	26-26	30-34
Cleveland	55	62	.470	81/2	6-4	Won 1	31-29	24-33
Detroit	54	65	.454	101/2	z-3-7	Lost 2	26-32	28-33
Milwaukee	50	65	.435	121/2	5-5	Won 2	24-32	26-33
New York	46	70	.397	17	z-4-6	Lost 6	23-29	23-41
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	W	L	_ Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Oakland	75	43	.636	-	z-8-2	Won 1	40-22	35-21
Chicago	67	47	.588	6	4-6	Won 1	34-26	33-21
Texas	60	57	.513	141/2	z-4-6	Won 1	31-24	29-33
Seattle	60	58	.508	15	z-4-6	Won 2	32-33	28-25
California	58	60	.492	17	6-4	Won 3	32-30	26-30
Kansas City	57	60	.487	171/2	7-3	Lost 1	34-28	23-32
Minnesota	55	62	.470	191/2	4-6	Lost 1	29-30	26-32
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East Division

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56 61 .479

54 60 .474

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28-28 26-32

GB L10 Streak Home Away

z-4-6 Lost 1

z-6-4 Lost 1

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Athletics 6, Red Sox 2

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Jose (8), Lansford (14), S - Quintar

Murphy pitched to 1 batter in the

HBP-Lansford by Kiecker, W

ond, Coble; Third, Evans.

T-2:42, A-41,704,

Umpires-Home, Welke; First, Hickox; Sec-

Marzano c 4010

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Greenwl If

Evans dh

Totals

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Second, Winters; Third, Davis.

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Bair p

**ATLANTA** 

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tely seven-mile hike takes three to rours hours, one way. to Anderson Pass (12,700-foot elevation). This approxiam-Basin (with its many swampy areas) and turn nght (west) up (11,888 feet high) and descend about 600 feet into Painter and back. The safest route is to go over Gunsight Pass It's an all-day trek from upper Henry's Fork to Kings Peak

rocks ("cairns") mark the trails. signs along the trails. At such high altitudes, only stacks of Service, is a necessity because there is only a nahdral of

## Golf

#### SHOWDOWN CLASSIC

Results Wednesday from the Showdown

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161/2

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Umpires-Home, Gregg; First, Crawford;

**PIONEER LEAGUE STANDINGS** 

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Southern Division

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12

Wednesday's results

32 21

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43

Second, Hallion; Third, DeMuth.

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Daulton (10).

San Francisco

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Philadelphia

Great Falls

Medicine Hat

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Helena 7, Billings 1

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Idaho Falls 10, Salt Lake 3

Great Falls 3, Medicine Hat 1

Mulholand W,7-6

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#### **NFL PRESEASON STANDINGS** AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Football

W L T Pct. PF PA 0 1.000 N.Y. Jets .000 .000 Indianapolis New England

at the trailhead on a typical weekday, he said. Vishing spot. It's not uncommon to find 50 vehicles parking hike in, 10,875-foot elevation) is the most popular campingwell-used in the summer and that Dollar Lake (a seven-mile tain View, Wyo., Ranger Station, said Henry's Fork area is Rick Schuler, recreation forestry technician at the Moun-

ry's Fork trail at Elkhorn crossing. er, slightly longer trailhead option. It connects with the Henavailable at the trailhead.) Nearby Onina Meadows is anour-

# On TV, radio

THURSDAY TV 1:00 p.m. (TBS) BASEBALL Braves at Pirates 3:00 p.m. (ESPN) GOLF The International, First Round 5:30 p.m. (ESPN) BOWLING LaMode Classic

7:00 p.m. (ESPN) BOXING Steve Collins vs. Fermin Chirino 10:35 p.m.

(2) GOLF Senior PGA Showdown Classic Preview, from The Jeremy Ranch Golf Club, Park City, Utah (Taped)

**EARLY FRIDAY TV** 

Noon

(PSN) APSL SOCCER Colorado Foxes vs. Salt Lake City Sting (Taped)

12:05 p.m. (TBS) BASEBALL Braves at Cubs 12:15 p.m.

(WGN) BASEBALL Braves at Cubs 3:00 p.m.

(ESPN) GOLF The International, Second Round

THURSDAY RADIO 11:15 a.m.

(KNKK AM-800) BASEBALL Dodgers at Mets

5 p.m. (KISN AM-57) SPORTS TALK

6:30 p.m. (KSL AM-1160) KSL SPORTSCENTRAL

7 p.m.

(KISN AM-57) BASEBALL Trappers host Pocatello

# Track and field

#### 1990 WELTKLASSE INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIX TRACK MEET

At Zurich, Switzerland, Aug. 15

100 meters - 1, Merlene Ottey, Jamaica, 10.93. 2, Katrin Krabbe, East Germany, 11.10. 3, Evelyn Ashford, U.S., 11.21. 4, Michele Finn, United States, 11.31. 5, Mary Onyali, Nigeria, 11.32. 6, Laurence Bily, France, and Pauline Davis, Bahamas, 11.33. 8, Sheila Echols, Unitnis Mitchell, U.S., 20.33. 4, Floyd Heard, U.S. 20.57. 5, Frank Fredericks, Namibia, 20.83. 6 Darren Council, U.S., 20.87. 7, Stanley Floyd,

400m - 1, Butch Reynolds, U.S., 44.22. 2, Danny Everett, U.S., 44.40. 3, (tied) Andrew Valmon, U.S. and Roberto Hernandez, Cuba, 44.43. 5, Roger Black, Britain, 45.05. 6, Berl Cameron, Jamaica, 45.23.

800m - 1, Nixon Kiprotich, Kenya, 1:44.61, 2, William Tanui, Kenya, 1:44.71.3, Reda Abden.

Wyoming on I-80, continuing 32 miles past Evanston to To reach Henry's Fork trailhead from Sait Lake, go to

the shortest and most popular route is from Henry's Fork. There are many starting points to Utah's tallest point, but

### • Climbing Kings Peak:

hikers or a Boy Scout troop.

wouldn't want to be responsible for the safety of young of potentially hazardous hike where a wise person fittest and most determined of individuals and is the kind

#### Cincinnati I . But 30-Aug. I.

West Division

Lynn Arave and Wayne Arave hiked to Kings Peak CELU OI VIKELS. than 30 miles away, safety should always be a prime con-

Since the nearest telephone from Kings Peak is more at lower elevations. may also help. Altitude sickness will completely disappear and extra water (a minimum of five quality a person per